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## Freedom Seekers Must Be Fighters

Countries which want freedom must be willing to fight for that freedom. That, in a general way, was what President Kennedy said last week in discussing some world activities, particularly with reference to fighting under way in Laos. The pro-Western leaders in Laos were being pushed back inch by inch by the Communist forces, and there seemed to be a lack of enthusiasm on the part of the loyalist forces in their work.

Unless a country is willing to make sacrifices and go to any extreme to win independence, then there seems little reason for the United States to get into these outside conflicts. Some small nations have taken the attitude that, because this country has made a commitment to come to their defense if they are attacked, they have no further interest or obligation. This belief should be dispelled by the President and others as quickly as possible. If a country is not willing to fight for the things it wants, there certainly is no compelling obligation why the United States should send in its armies to battle invaders or Communists.

While the United States did

nothing more than lend moral support to the effort of Cubans to oust Fidel Castro late last month, the Cubans on the island certainly showed no disposition to join in the uprising. The invading forces, who had been led to believe that once they hit the beach in Cuba, the residents there would join in the battle against communism, certainly were disappointed. Apparently, the Cubans already there decided after looking over the defenses set up to repel the invaders, they would be better off to follow a hands-off policy. At least they didn't join the invaders in fighting the Castro forces.

It might be a good idea for our Central Intelligence Agency, which so far has not had too good a record in providing information needed where American forces might have to be involved, to study some of the areas where we are likely to be called upon for help to determine in advance whether the peoples we are endeavoring to help really want our help. They also might determine at the same time whether these people are willing to fight for the freedoms they want us to defend.